



Jefferson County Farm Bureau

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Oregon Water Resources Department
Laura Hartt
725 Summer St. NE, Suite A
Salem, Oregon 97301

WRD Ground Water Rule Making Public Comment

Jefferson County Farm Bureau has two main concerns with any rule making:

- (1) Our Opal Springs aquifer needs to be preserved for Jefferson County and not be allowed to be used for mitigation for communities or cities outside of Jefferson County. That should always be the case for all aquifers in relationship to their communities or cities within their basins and sub-basins within a county.**

- (2) Being a junior water right holder in the Deschutes Basin we need to be made whole and not have the water rights that should be going to us continue to be converted to mitigate ground water depletion within the basin. In our opinion that is over committing water resources and not allowing for adequate recharge and will not resolve the problem.**

We truly understand the need for correctly managing the water in Oregon by watershed and aquifer, having been in a drought for five years that has greatly impacted agriculture in the North Unit Irrigation District. Over-allocation is a key issue that any rule making needs to address. A study needs to be made to identify how the over allocation occurred and the impacts that have occurred because of the over allocation for each basin, watershed and aquifer(s).

Sincerely,

Mickey Killingsworth

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Secretary-Treasurer
Jefferson County Farm Bureau

Home of North Unit Irrigation District